

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Socialist Workers Party
holds 46th convention**
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Puerto Rico students block fee, tuition hike

BY SETH GALINSKY

After two months on strike, students at the University of Puerto Rico scored a victory, forcing the administration to back off from plans to sharply increase the cost of going to school.

At an island-wide student assembly in Ponce June 21 nearly 3,000 students voted to end the strike, which had closed down 10 of the public university's 11 campuses. The Board of Trustees rescinded a plan to reduce the number of tuition waivers, promised not to privatize the university, and agreed to hold off on tuition and fee hikes at least until January 2011. The assembly approved a separate resolution authorizing another strike if the administration raises fees at that time.

The administration also agreed to drop attempts to summarily punish some of the leaders of the strike.

The accord between the National Student Negotiating Committee and the Board of Trustees allows the administration to keep its financial books closed. Students had been demanding open books.

Some 30 percent of the 62,000 students at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) receive tuition waivers, including athletes, musicians, and honor students. More than 60 percent of students get U.S. federal Pell Grants, which help cover their expenses.

As soon as the accord was announced

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Minnesota nurses press fight for contract and patient care

BY NATALIE MORRISON

MINNEAPOLIS—nurses voted June 21 to set a July 6 strike date if the Minnesota Nurses Association and 14 hospitals don't reach agreement on a new contract by then. The strike authorization vote passed with 84 percent in favor.

The nurses are demanding fixed nurse-to-patient staffing ratios they say are necessary to ensure patient safety and proper care.

Nurses are increasingly asked to work faster with more patients to monitor.

Hospital demands include greater "flexibility" so they can move nurses between units and maintain minimum staffing. Nurses say this requires them to float from unit to unit without proper knowledge of specialized technology and requirements for patient care.

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White House fires top general in Afghan war

Imperialists face mounting challenges



U.S. and Afghan soldiers at military outpost in Sayed Abad, Wardak Province, Afghanistan, load Chinook helicopter in preparation for air assault mission June 15.

BY DOUG NELSON

The events surrounding the forced resignation of Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, highlight challenges Washington faces after nearly nine years of war.

U.S.-led forces have gained no further clear-cut advantage against Taliban forces since routing them from power in 2001. There is growing frustration

among troops and combat officers with the course of the war and tactics of the top U.S. military leadership, which they hold responsible for increasing troop deaths. And the Pakistani government, Washington's key strategic ally in the conflict, is currently moving to secure its influence in Afghanistan in a way that diverges from Washington's plan.

General McChrystal was forced to re-

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Socialist Workers announce 2010 candidates

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Socialist Workers Party is launching election campaigns in 11 states and the District of Columbia in 2010. Petitioning drives will be organized in July

in New York; Des Moines, Iowa; and Washington, D.C., to place five candidates on the ballot.

At a rally concluding the party's national convention June 17–19 in Oberlin, Ohio, James Harris, the party's candidate for U.S. Senate in California, described the openings to present a communist platform to growing numbers of working people and youth. "We are beginning to live through times of tremendous economic crisis, wars, and social dislocation," he said. "These are conditions few workers have ever seen before."

The capitalist rulers' assaults on workers' social wage are accelerating at a rapid pace. Jobs are more difficult to get and hold onto. Working people face greater obstacles to receiving unemployment benefits, attacks on health care and pensions, and speedup on the job, explained Harris.

"Workers facing these deteriorating social conditions are going to be looking for alternatives. They will be looking for radical ways to address the crisis, which seems to have no end in sight. The SWP campaign will explain how these conditions are the result of the dictatorship of capital," he said.

The socialist candidates will advance immediate demands to defend the working class against the devastating

Court hears evidence of Troy Davis's innocence

BY RACHELE FRUIT

SAVANNAH, Georgia—Attorneys for death-row prisoner Troy Davis presented evidence of his innocence at a special hearing June 23 and 24.

Davis is a 40-year-old Black man framed up and convicted in 1991 for the 1989 killing of Mark MacPhail, a white cop in Savannah. Davis has maintained his innocence throughout his 19 years on death row. No DNA or other physical evidence linking him to the killing was presented at the trial.

Three times the state has tried to execute Davis. However, through an international campaign to defend him stays were won each time. Last August the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia to "make findings of fact as to whether evidence that could not have been obtained at the time of trial clearly establishes petitioner's [Davis's] innocence."

The night before the hearing, a meeting here drew nearly 150 people at the New Life Apostolic Temple. Participants, mostly Black, included workers, young people, Davis's fam-

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impact of the capitalist crisis on workers' lives—unemployment insurance for as long as a worker is unemployed, wages to automatically rise when hours are cut, workers control of safety on the job to protect the life and limb of workers and impede disasters like the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico from occurring. Socialist candidates will be calling for all U.S. troops out of Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and all other parts of the world—not one penny for Washington's wars, Harris said.

Under capitalism, any gains won by working people are temporary as the capitalists keep pushing to reverse any

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Militant/Leah Morrison
Nurses during one-day strike June 10 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

British army massacre in N. Ireland ‘unjustifiable’

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—Thousands of supporters of 14 civil rights protesters killed in 1972 by British paratroopers marched through Derry, Northern Ireland, June 15 to hear the findings of an inquiry established by London into what has become known as “Bloody Sunday.” British troops were deployed in Northern Ireland starting in 1969 in an effort to break the rising civil rights movement, which fought British-imposed discrimination against Catholics. On Jan. 30, 1972, British soldiers opened fire on a march against the government’s use of internment without trial. The march had been banned by the British government, which deployed thousands of troops to prevent the demonstrators from reaching the city center.

From the Battle of the Bogside in 1969, where Catholic residents fought battles with cops and barricaded the Bogside and Creggan neighborhoods, until 1972, this area of Derry was largely off limits to the British army. Six months after Bloody Sunday British forces succeeded in taking down the barricades.

Carrying giant pictures of those who were killed, marchers June 15 retraced the route of the 1972 action. One woman shouted, “Set the truth free!” At the site of the massacre, relatives shredded copies of a previous government inquiry that had exonerated the army. Thousands cheered when British prime minister David Cameron, in a live broadcast televised to the Derry crowd, declared that the army’s actions were “unjustified and unjustifiable.” Many also booed when Cameron praised British soldiers

as “the finest in the world.”

Cameron acknowledged that soldiers opened fire without warning and later lied about their actions. The government’s previous inquiry “was a whitewash from day one,” Olive Bonner, whose brother Hugh Gilmour was killed, told the *Belfast Telegraph*. “We proved that the British government was lying.”

Tony Doherty, son of Paddy Doherty who was shot down on Bloody Sunday, told the press, “When the state kills its citizens, it is in the interests of all that those responsible be held to account.”

“The only people I have an argument with is the British government and the British army,” John Kelly, brother of Michael Kelly, also killed in the army massacre, told the BBC.

It took decades of campaigning by relatives of those killed to force the current inquiry, conducted by Mark Saville. In the course of this fight, annual demonstrations in Derry protesting the killings attracted up to 40,000.

An editorial in *The Times* urged that none of the soldiers involved be prosecuted. But Joseph McCartney, who participated in the 1972 march shortly after his discharge from the British army, told the *Belfast Telegraph* that he wanted soldiers involved in the killings prosecuted. I saw people “shot dead by people who were supposed to protect them,” he said. “At that point the state became the enemy here.”

Saville’s inquiry covers up the responsibility of then-prime minister Edward Heath for the actions of the troops sent to Northern Ireland. The inquiry heard



Militant/Roy Inglee

March through Derry, Northern Ireland, Jan. 28, 2007, commemorating 35th anniversary of Bloody Sunday massacre in which British troops killed 14 civil rights demonstrators.

testimony from Gen. Michael Carver, the army’s chief of staff, who said that prior to the killings he had briefed Heath that restoring order in Derry would involve “numerous civilian casualties.”

It also exonerates British officers Gen. Robert Ford and Brigadier Patrick MacLellan. In a secret memorandum just weeks prior to the 1972 killings, Ford, commander of British Land Forces in Northern Ireland, had suggested that the army “shoot selected ringleaders” of those dubbed the “Derry Young Hooligans.”

The Saville inquiry indulges Sinn Fein’s “Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness by in effect, placing the Army on trial,” complained conservative military historian Max Hastings in a column in the *Daily Mail*, while “the long catalogue of [Irish] Republican atrocities against the British and Irish peoples goes unexplored.” Sinn Fein is the party that led the fight to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Cameron said there would be “no more open ended and costly inquiries into the past.”

New York mayor cuts funding for suicide prevention hotline

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—Amidst the sharp cuts to schools, hospitals, libraries, and many social services in Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s proposed New York City budget, scheduled to go into effect July 1, is a little-noticed item terminating funds for a 24-hour suicide hotline.

Under the proposal the Samaritans of New York, a two-decade-old, nonreligious group, would have their \$247,150-a-year contract with the city eliminated. This “will virtually cause us to close our doors,” the group noted on its Web site.

The number of people dialing the Samaritans’ hot line keeps growing, now exceeding 65,000 a year. Volunteers trained in counseling individuals

not to take their lives handle the calls. In a June 14 *New York Times* column titled “City Budget May Cut Short Cries for Help,” Clyde Haberman notes that this cut amounts to “literally two minutes’ worth of the municipal government’s annual budget.” The Bloomberg administration says that LifeNet, a privately owned company with a \$2.3 million-a-year contract with the city, will replace the Samaritans. It also has a 24-hour hot line but operates more like an information referral service. LifeNet’s Web site states its “referral specialists” will “listen to the problem and assess the situation” then provide you “with information about local community resources” you can contact.



Free Troy Davis!

For 19 years Troy Davis has been imprisoned on death row, framed up for the killing of a police officer. His fight for justice has won broad support around the world. The ‘Militant’ covers the campaign to free Davis. Don’t miss an issue!



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Rally in Atlanta in May 2009 demands justice for Troy Davis.

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Social Forum meeting discusses world politics

BY TOM BAUMANN

DETROIT—Under the banner, “Another World Is Possible. Another U.S. is Necessary,” 7,000 people marched to open the U.S. Social Forum here June 22. The first U.S. Social Forum was held in Atlanta in 2007.

Conference organizers reported 14,000 registered for the forum, which ran through June 26. Many came from college campuses and were affiliated to community and other political groups that advocate social reforms. Hundreds of workshops and panels were organized on the effects of the economic crisis; ways to resist attacks on immigrant workers, racism and discrimination; protection of the environment; opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and Israeli aggression against Palestine, among many others.

Three documentary film showings about Cuba and about a dozen workshops were organized by supporters of the Cuban Revolution and fighters for the freedom of Antonio Guerrero, René González, Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, and Ramón Labañino—known internationally as the Cuban Five. The men have been held in U.S. prisons for almost 12 years, framed up on charges ranging from conspiracy to commit espionage to conspiracy to commit murder. They were in Florida monitoring the activities of right-wing Cuban American groups that have a long record of violent attacks on Cuba, with the complicity of Washington.

Conference participants were invited to attend the Detroit opening of “From My Altitude,” a touring exhibit of artwork by Guerrero who was taught how to draw and paint by fellow inmates.

A number of workshops promoted sanctions against Israel including boycotts and divestment. Jewish Voices for Peace, for example, held a program entitled, “Think Globally, Act Locally Against Israeli Occupation,” which drew 30 participants. The facilitator of the program, Stephanie Fox, promoted pressuring financial services company TIAA-CREF to divest from five of the 30 companies she alleges profit off the occupation of Palestine.

Socialist workers at the forum

explained how capitalism in crisis breeds anti-Semitism and the need for the working class in Israel and Palestine to fight for a democratic secular Palestine. As part of this perspective communists would fight for Palestine to be a refuge for Jews facing persecution around the world.

There were a number of workshops that featured union fights. Two Black workers from Mississippi speaking at one workshop described the struggle that members of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1529 are waging for a union contract at Delta Pride and Country Select catfish factories in Indianola and Isola, Mississippi.

Lamont Denton, 27, a union steward, described how he was recently fired for insubordination for trying to represent a worker in the plant who was called to the office. “Here we are 20 years later,” said Sarah White, who was part of a three-month strike in 1990 at Delta Pride. “The company will not sit down and negotiate. They put it on the economy. Twenty years ago we fought a slave-type mentality. We might have to hit the streets again.”

Another workshop featured a discussion of the U.S. Civil War and the Radical Reconstruction governments that came out of it. It was attended by 40 people, many of whom were Black. During the lively discussion many people commented on what was accomplished during this period. “After the Civil War it was a revolution. Public schools came from this period,” said one participant.

Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, said, “Working people can learn important lessons for what we need today from the fight of freed Black slaves and white farmers across the South to establish governments in their interests following the Civil War. In the coming years we will again see the kind of battles by working people that will pose the need for the working class to take political power.”

Participants at the Social Forum came from coast to coast to link up with other fighters and share experiences from their struggles. The majority were from the Midwest.

A number of workshops discussed

Forum participants buy Pathfinder books



Militant/Claudia Hommel

DETROIT—At the U.S. Social Forum held here, Socialist Workers Party candidates and their supporters talked to hundreds of youth and working people at workshops and at the SWP campaign table. Participants bought 142 Pathfinder titles, including 61 copies of *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes. Fifty-two *Militant* subscriptions were also sold.

At a workshop on Haiti, one of the panelists recommended the writings of Thomas Sankara, a leader of the revolution in the 1980s in Burkina Faso, a country in West Africa. “Unfortunately, you have to read it in French,” she said. Sara Lobman, a campaign supporter from New York, told the workshop that speeches by Sankara are also available in English and held up a copy of Sankara’s *We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions*. The panelist asked her to pass it around.

Many ex-prisoners expressed gratitude for the *Militant* and Pathfinder books. One person, who recounted how he led a hunger strike at a prison, pointed to several Pathfinder titles he had read while incarcerated. Another gave a \$5 donation to the *Militant* Prisoner’s Fund.

—ALYSON KENNEDY

organizing and defending a woman’s right to choose abortion. Micaela Pietryga, a student at the University of Nebraska, told the *Militant*, “I’m here because in Nebraska they’re passing

all these laws to restrict abortion and I want to discuss how to fight back.”

Alyson Kennedy contributed to this article.

Ottawa launches assaults on rights as G-20 event begins

BY JOE YOUNG

TORONTO—The G-20 summit in Toronto June 26–27 was the occasion for a major assault on democratic rights by Canada’s rulers. The G-20 brings together representatives of the world’s major economic powers.

A whole section of the downtown was sealed off. The government invoked a 1939 law to give police the power to arrest anyone who refused to identify themselves within and near the walled-off area for the sum-

mit. About 900 people were arrested, many on vague conspiracy charges.

On June 26 thousands of people participated in a demonstration organized by the Canadian Labour Congress, Greenpeace, the Canadian Federation of Students, Oxfam, and the Ontario Federation of Labour. The theme was “People first. We deserve better.”

About 100 strikers, members of United Steelworkers Local 6500, and their supporters came from Sudbury, Ontario. The workers there have been in a nearly year-long battle against mining giant Vale. In addition to unionists, there were different women’s groups, environmentalists, immigrant rights activists, defenders of animal rights, and many others. Participants included outright reactionary groups such as those who marched to “Free Vietnam.”

When the march was well underway, a small group of anarchists, calling themselves the “Black Bloc,” started smashing windows of stores and police vehicles. This gave the authorities the pretext for carrying out widespread physical attacks and arrests.

At the G-20 meeting itself, a goal of cutting deficits in half by 2013 was adopted for what was called the “advanced economies,” but it was left to individual governments to work out how to do it. The deficit-cutting goal means major new attacks on working people in the coming months and years.

Minnesota nurses press fight for contract

Continued from front page
tient care.

The hospitals are also demanding cuts in health benefits and about a 30 percent drop in pension contributions.

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

An Evening in Solidarity with Cuba. A celebration of the 57th anniversary of the July 26, 1953, assault on the Moncada barracks that launched the revolutionary war that toppled the Batista dictatorship in 1959. Speakers: Pedro Nuñez Mosquera, ambassador, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the UN; UN representatives of South Africa, Venezuela, and Bolivia; and others. Sat., July 24. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 310 W. 43rd St., (between 8th & 9th Avenues). Sponsors: July 26 Coalition and Casa de las Americas. For more information: (917) 887-8710 or july26coalition@mindspring.com.

Some 12,000 union nurses held a one-day walkout June 10 to protest the contract proposed by hospital administrations.

At a June 26 “Picnic for Patient Safety,” Wendi Iskierka, a nurse at the new Children’s Hospital in Minneapolis, reported that management locked out union nurses before the scheduled 7:00 a.m. strike on June 10.

“Management asked nurses to leave,” she said, “some as early as 2:00 a.m., refusing to allow communication between nurses leaving and replacement nurses.”

Nurses were “escorted out like criminals. We are facing a crisis of health care, all they are looking at are the numbers,” another nurse said. “If there is no patient safety, how can there be health-care reform?”

Union power needed to win Canada nickel strike

BY JOHN STEELE
AND JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL—After more than 11 months on the picket lines the 3,000 nickel miners, smelter workers, and refinery workers—members of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 6500 who have been on strike against the mining company Vale in Sudbury, Ontario, since July 13, 2009—are grappling with the question of how to win their fight as the bosses drive to resume full production with scabs.

At the beginning of May hundreds of strikers, relatives, and community supporters blocked two city roads leading to the entrances of an operating Vale mine and mill. They demanded Vale negotiate a contract. The mass protests, which initially defied court orders to disperse, lasted five days. Many strikers saw the actions as strengthening the strike. Vale is now taking a number of union mem-

AS I SEE IT

bers to court, accusing them of violating court injunctions that limit the number of pickets to eight per picket line.

Last March, 5,000 marched through the streets of Sudbury to a solidarity rally, which included unionists from around the province and representatives of Vale unions from Brazil and other countries, as well as local university students.

Mobilizing union power

USW Local 6500 is a major industrial union with a long history of struggle. As the strike heads towards its one-year anniversary, the stakes in this fight are high for the entire labor movement. Members of this local have never before had to face efforts by the nickel bosses to resume production using strikebreakers. Production is being carried out in at least two of six mines, a mill, and the smelter.

A number of union officials leading the strike emphasize pressuring capitalist politicians and government institutions to make the Vale bosses back down. This effort is packaged in radical-sounding demands to force the com-

pany to agree to the “Canadian way” of doing things. The New Democratic Party—a social democratic party linked to the unions outside of Quebec—which has been active in supporting the strike, also promotes this view.

Vale is a Brazilian-based company that bought out Canadian-owned Inco in 2006. “We are sick and tired of foreign capitalists coming in and undermining the Canadian way of life,” said USW District 6 Director Wayne Fraser, responding to Vale’s March announcement of plans to bring in strikebreakers.

There is, of course, no such thing as a “Canadian” way. Workers and bosses have no common class interests. The employers often try to use Canadian nationalism to convince workers they need to sacrifice wages and working conditions to defend “Canadian” business against its international competitors.

The problem with Vale is not that it is Brazilian but that it is a capitalist corporation, supported in its attack against USW Local 6500 by the bosses throughout Canada, along with their courts, cops, and government.

Like all capitalists, Vale’s owners are driven to increase their profits and profit rates at our expense as global competition between capitalists intensifies—a by-product of the initial stages of a global economic depression of the world capitalist system.

Union power—our ability to cut off profits by withdrawing our labor power and then doing what is necessary to ensure all production stops—is the only effective weapon we have to defend ourselves from the bosses’ assaults.

The May protests that closed off two roads to Vale facilities pointed in the direction of the kind of union power needed to win the strike.

The March rally showed the potential for working-class solidarity. The labor movement across Canada should organize a massive, sustained solidarity campaign of demonstrations, meetings, picket lines, and fund-raising events similar to the Canada-wide solidarity campaign that helped win a hard-fought eight-month strike against Inco in 1978–79.



Militant/John Steele

United Steelworkers Local 6500 members on strike against Vale in Sudbury, Ontario, march at demonstration in Toronto June 26. Action was called by Canadian Labour Congress to coincide with meeting of Group of 20 in that city.

Hearing on Troy Davis case

Continued from front page

ily members, and friends and pastors from area churches. Among the speakers were representatives of Amnesty International and the NAACP.

The courtroom was full on both days of the hearing, with observers from California, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Virginia, Washington, Georgia, the United Kingdom, and France.

Davis set a dignified example in the courtroom, sitting in the first row in front of his family. He was surrounded by five prison guards.

Davis’s 1991 conviction was based solely on the testimony of nine eyewitnesses, seven of whom later recanted or changed their testimony. For the first time since the trial, these witnesses appeared in court.

Antoine Williams, who identified Davis as the shooter at the 1991 trial, said that he could not read the statement that he originally signed because he was illiterate. He testified at the hearing that he saw nothing because it was dark and he was ducking down in his car.

Kevin McQueen had testified in 1991 that Davis admitted killing MacPhail while they were in jail. McQueen said there is simply “no truth” to his original testimony. “He never confessed to shooting anyone,” he stated. McQueen

also said he ultimately benefited from his testimony, receiving a lighter sentence for a burglary charge in 1989.

Jeffrey Sapp, who said during the 1991 trial that Davis told him he was the shooter, said he first heard about the shooting when the police roped off the neighborhood. He said the police came for him at 2:00 a.m. that night and took him to the station. Sapp was 19 years old. “I was so scared that I told them anything they wanted to hear,” Sapp said in court June 23. “I had an officer in each ear saying, ‘Just say Troy told you. Just say Troy told you.’”

Benjamin Gordon testified for the first time that he saw Sylvester Coles shoot MacPhail. When Beth Burton, the state’s lead attorney, asked Gordon what made him identify Coles for the first time today, he replied, “It’s the truth.”

U.S. District Court Judge William Moore ruled out testimony from a number of witnesses who were going to say that Coles told them that he, not Davis, shot and killed MacPhail. He ruled that it was inadmissible hearsay because the defense had not called Coles to the stand, where he would have had the chance to rebut the testimony. Coles testified against Davis in the 1991 trial.

Davis’s first lawyer, Robert Falligant, said that “contrary to the arrangement I had made with the Savannah Police Department” when Davis agreed to turn himself in, they paraded Davis in through the front door with TV and other media there to film. “They were allowed to come in during Davis’s processing and fingerprinting.”

Only after this publicity were witnesses approached by investigators with a photo lineup that included Davis’s picture but did not include the picture of anyone else who was present at the scene of MacPhail’s shooting.

Moore gave the lawyers for the defense and the state until 5:00 p.m. July 7 to respond to a series of questions. He said that he would then make a ruling without “unreasonable delay.”

During the lunch break June 24, many of Davis’s supporters were prevented from reentering the courtroom until they covered up their “I am Troy Davis” T-shirts or turned them inside out.

Martina Correia, Davis’s sister, told the *Militant*, “There are so many inconsistencies” in the state’s argument and police testimony. “We will continue this fight until there is a positive outcome.”

Law eased on deportations for drug offenses

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Immigrants who are legal residents of the United States should not be automatically deported for minor drug offenses, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in mid-June.

The case is based on a lawsuit filed on behalf of José Angel Carachuri-Rosendo, a permanent resident living in the United States since 1983. He was deported to Mexico after being convicted of possessing a single tablet of the anti-anxiety drug Xanax without a prescription.

A Texas judge sentenced him in 2005 to 10 days in jail. A year earlier he was convicted of possessing two ounces of marijuana, receiving a 20-day sentence.

Both these “crimes” are misdemeanors under state law. But federal authorities said according to federal immigration law a second drug offense counted as an “aggravated felony.” As a result Carachuri-Rosendo was automatically deported, leaving behind his wife, four children, and other family members, all

of whom are U.S. citizens.

“We do not usually think of a 10-day sentence for the unauthorized possession of a trivial amount of a prescription drug as an ‘aggravated felony,’” wrote Justice John Paul Stevens in the Supreme Court’s unanimous decision. Stevens said that instead of being automatically deported Carachuri-Rosendo should have been allowed to plead his case before an immigrant court judge.

The decision applies for immigrants with government-approved papers. Undocumented workers, however, would still face virtually automatic deportation, said Manuel Vargas, senior counsel for the Immigrant Defense Project.

Many immigrant workers living in the United States have had to confront what Carachuri-Rosendo faced. An important example on how to fight back against this is the case of Róger Calero, who was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president in 2008.

In December 2002, while returning

from a reporting trip to Cuba and Mexico for the *Militant* newspaper, Calero was arrested and incarcerated by immigration authorities in Houston. The government immediately began proceedings to deport him to his native Nicaragua, based on a minor plea-bargain conviction 15 years earlier, when he was in high school, for selling an ounce of marijuana to an undercover cop. Calero has had a green card since 1990 when immigration authorities waived the conviction.

A broad-based defense committee was formed to back Calero’s fight. In response to many letters of protest, immigration officials released Calero from its detention center in Houston 10 days after his arrest. He then began a nationwide speaking tour to publicize the case.

Trade unionists, immigrant rights fighters, and many others were won to support this anti-deportation fight. In response, immigration authorities five months later backed down, dropping the case.

Gerardo Hernández files appeal for a new trial

BY SETH GALINSKY

Attorneys for Gerardo Hernández filed an appeal June 14 asking for a new trial. Hernández is one of five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the United States since September 1998. They were convicted on frame-up charges ranging from “conspiracy to commit espionage” to “conspiracy to commit murder” in the case of Hernández.

Hernández, Ramón Labañino, René González, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González had been gathering information on right-wing groups in Florida with a long history of conducting physical attacks against Cuba with the complicity of Washington. Known internationally as the Cuban Five, they all received stiff sentences after being found guilty in 2001 in a Miami trial marked by numerous violations of their democratic rights.

During the trial the defense was denied access to documents, including those taken from the five upon their arrest. Five motions to move the trial out of Miami due to the prejudicial at-

mosphere there were denied.

As a result of international support to their fight for freedom, a federal appeals court vacated the sentences for three of the five in June 2008. After a new hearing on the sentences, Guerrero’s sentence of life plus 10 years was reduced to 21 years and 10 months, Labañino’s life plus 18 years sentence was reduced to 30 years, and Fernando González’s sentence of 19 years was reduced to 17 years and 9 months. But the court refused to vacate Hernández’s sentence.

Hernández is serving a draconian double life sentence plus 15 years, on unprecedented charges that he was responsible for the sovereign act of the Cuban government in shooting down two “Brothers to the Rescue” planes that violated Cuban airspace on Feb. 24, 1996.

Brothers to the Rescue, led by CIA-trained counterrevolutionary José Basulto, had violated Cuban airspace 10 times in one 20-month period, including provocative flights over Havana, despite numerous warnings.



Gerardo Hernández, (behind children facing camera) one of Cuban Five imprisoned in U.S. jails, in Angola on internationalist mission that he volunteered for in 1989. Cuban troops helped defend country against invasion by South African apartheid regime.

In a statement after their sentences were reduced, Guerrero, Labañino, and González noted that Hernández “has been arbitrarily excluded from this re-sentencing process. . . . The U.S. government knows the accusations against him are false and that his sentence is unjust.”

Not content with the stiff sentences given the five, Washington for more than 10 years has denied visas to Adriana Pérez, Hernández’s wife, and to Olga Salanueva, René González’s wife, preventing them from visiting their husbands in prison.

In the federal habeas corpus “Section 2255” motion, also known as a collateral appeal or attack, the legal team is arguing that there is new evidence that Hernández is innocent and the U.S. government attorneys committed violations in the handling and falsifying of evidence during the trial.

According to Leonard Weinglass, lead attorney for Hernández, among the information that first came to light in 2006 is evidence that many news articles published during the trial that raised unsubstantiated charges against the five were written by journalists paid by the U.S. government.

The articles, which often referred to the five as “spies,” contributed to an atmosphere in Miami that made it impossible to have a fair trial.

“Cuba used hallucinogens to train its spies” was the headline on one such article in the Spanish-language daily *El Nuevo Herald*, which quoted an anonymous source who claimed that Cuban “agents” were given LSD and other drugs to make them more “aggressive.”

High court ruling limits free speech, association

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a decision against freedom of speech and association, a U.S. Supreme Court June 21 upheld a federal law banning assistance to groups the government claims are “terrorist.” The ruling, which passed in a 6-3 vote, argued that “national security” outweighs First Amendment rights.

The case involves the Humanitarian Law Project, five other domestic organizations, and two U.S. citizens who sought to work with members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The PKK is a group that took up arms in the 1980s and calls for autonomy for Kurds in Turkey. The LTTE, which fought for decades for Tamil independence from Sri Lanka, was defeated by government troops in 2009.

The PKK and LTTE are among 45 groups on the State Department’s List

of Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Once a group is placed on this list it is illegal for anyone living in the United States to provide it with “material support or resources,” including not just weapons or money but also “service,” “training,” “personnel,” and “expert advice or assistance.”

The plaintiffs argued that the law prevented them from activities such as political advocacy for Kurdish or Tamil rights and training members of the groups in how to appeal to international bodies for aid.

A federal judge in Los Angeles had previously ruled that the law’s use of ill-defined terms like “training” and “service” rendered it unconstitutionally vague. A panel of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed. The Supreme Court reversed this ruling.

The material-support statute was part of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death

Penalty Act, passed under the William Clinton administration in 1996. It was later amended and expanded as part of the Patriot Act in 2001 and 2004. The statute has been used about 150 times since Sept. 11, 2001, resulting in 75 convictions.

In the majority opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that the plaintiffs “may speak and write freely about the PKK and LTTE” but not “under the direction of, or in coordination with” these groups. “The material-support statute,” he argued, “criminalizes not terrorist attacks themselves, but aid that makes the attacks more likely to occur.”

Then solicitor general Elena Kagan argued the government’s case for maintaining this law before the Supreme Court. Two months later she was nominated by President Barack Obama to replace Justice John Paul Stevens on the high court.

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New International no. 6

Washington’s 50-year Domestic

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by Larry Seigle

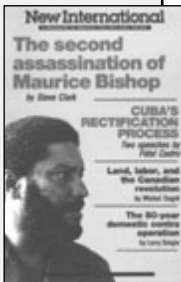
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UN hearing condemns U.S. rule in Puerto Rico

BY DAVE FARMER

UNITED NATIONS—Nearly 30 advocates of Puerto Rico’s independence testified June 21 at this year’s decolonization hearing here. They condemned that nation’s status as one of the last remaining colonies in the world and explained the necessity of independence from U.S. rule. Several noted how colonial oppression has magnified the disastrous effects of the world economic crisis on Puerto Rico.

Cuban ambassador Pedro Núñez Mosquera presented a draft resolution on behalf of the governments of Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela that “reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence.”

The resolution also calls on U.S. president Barack Obama to release Oscar López Rivera, Carlos Alberto Torres, and Avelino González Claudio, locked up in U.S. prisons for fighting for the independence of Puerto Rico. In a victory, Torres is due to be released on parole in July after 30 years of imprisonment.

The UN Special Committee on Decolonization has adopted 28 similar resolutions since 1972. Many petitioners called on the UN General Assembly to take up the status of Puerto Rico, which Washington, denying it is a colony, succeeded in removing it from the UN list of “Non-Self-Governing Territories” in 1953 by repackaging the Caribbean nation as a “commonwealth.”

Héctor Pesquera, cochair of the Hostos National Independence Movement (MINH), noted that unemployment on the island is officially 17 percent, nearly double the U.S. figure.

Arturo Hernández, president of the Bar Association of Puerto Rico, pointed to the recent layoff of 17,000 government workers and sharp cutbacks in social services by the colonial regime.

Ismael Guadalupe of the Movement for the Affirmation of Vieques and a leader of the mass campaign that in 2001 led to the end of the U.S. Navy’s use of that Puerto Rican island for target practice, said local residents continue to suffer serious health problems and high mortality rates due to the Navy’s decades of contaminating the land and water through 7,200 unexploded bombs, mercury poisoning, and other chemicals. The U.S. military’s cleanup

effort, by detonating or burning leftover bombs, has only worsened the pollution, he said.

Normita Aponte spoke on behalf of the Committee of Relatives and Friends of Avelino González Claudio. The FBI arrested him in February 2008. He was sentenced to seven years in prison on charges of “conspiracy” in relation to the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo truck by the Macheteros organization. Calling for his release, she said González suffers from Parkinson’s disease and is receiving inadequate care.

A handful of speakers called either for modifications in Puerto Rico’s current “commonwealth” status or for the island to become the 51st U.S. state.

In concluding remarks after the UN committee adopted the resolution by consensus, Rodolfo Benítez, Cuba’s deputy representative to the United

SWP leader: ‘We share a common struggle’

The following are excerpts from the statement by Martin Koppel for the Socialist Workers Party at the UN hearings on Puerto Rico, June 21, 2010.

Distinguished Chairman and honored committee members:

The Socialist Workers Party salutes the tens of thousands of students at the University of Puerto Rico who just won a resounding victory in their two-month-long strike. The students set an example for working people and youth around the globe—including here in the United States—on how to fight the capitalist rulers at a time when millions face an unprecedented economic, social, and political crisis of the world capitalist system.

Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony. The people of Puerto Rico and workers and farmers in the United States share a common enemy—the U.S. billionaire families and their government in Washington. And we share a common struggle to get that enemy off our backs.

That is why a successful fight for Puerto Rico’s independence is in the interests, not only of the people of this Latin American nation, but of the vast majority of the people of the United States.

As long as the U.S. rulers control



El Nuevo Día/Ramón “Tonito” Zayas

Students protest June 2 against increased costs and fees at University of Puerto Rico

Nations, pledged revolutionary Cuba’s continued support to the independence struggle and said, “Latin America and the Caribbean will never be totally free until Puerto Rico is free.”

After the hearings, pro-independence

participants attended a reception at the Venezuelan mission to the United Nations and a public forum sponsored by ProLibertad at Service Employees International Union Local 1199’s headquarters in New York.

Puerto Rico’s destiny, their oppressive hand will be strengthened, while the solidarity and fighting capacity of working people in both countries will be weakened.

State and city governments, including here in New York, are slashing funds for schools, libraries, and public employee wages and benefits. In New York City St. Vincent’s Hospital has just been shut down and the city is cutting back subway and bus service.

It’s not a mystery what caused the deadly explosion and unfolding BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico—the indifference of BP and the U.S. government to anything but the profits of the bosses.

Puerto Ricans living in the United States, who face systematic discrimination, are among those who bear the brunt of these attacks on our living standards and rights.

I join with others here today in demanding the immediate release of Oscar López and Avelino González, Puerto Rican political prisoners locked up for the “crime” of fighting for the freedom of their nation. Oscar López has been in U.S. prisons for nearly three decades. We also celebrate the victory of the imminent release of Carlos Alberto Torres, a Puerto Rican patriot jailed for 30 years.

These assaults are a part of the imperialist rulers’ war on working people and the oppressed around the world—from Afghanistan to Pakistan, Iraq, and North Korea. We face decades of imperialist wars and economic crisis as the historic crisis of the 21st century unfolds.

Through these experiences, millions in this country are seeing more clearly the real face of capitalism, of the dictatorship of capital. The U.S. rulers know these conditions will generate working-class resistance, of which we see examples today: from the recent strike by 12,000 nurses in Minneapolis, to the demonstrations on May 1 by a quarter million workers and youth demanding legalization of all undocumented immigrants.

In anticipation of the coming resistance, Washington continues to take steps to undermine the political rights of workers. These attacks include recent moves by the Obama administration and the Supreme Court to weaken Miranda rights, that is, to increase the power of cops to interrogate “suspects” without informing them of the right to remain silent and to have a lawyer.

Mr. Chairman,

We call on the U.S. government to release Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González. These exemplary Cuban revolutionaries have been unjustly held in U.S. prisons for nearly 12 years, serving sentences of up to life in prison on false “conspiracy” charges. Their only crime was to defend Cuba.

The colonial masters peddle the lie that Puerto Rico cannot survive without Washington’s guiding hand. But the Cuban Revolution shatters that myth. For 50 years the workers and farmers of Cuba have successfully defended their hard-won freedom in face of Washington’s relentless economic war and other assaults. Cuba’s socialist revolution shows that when workers and farmers take state power out of the hands of the capitalist minority, they can use that power to win genuine independence and effectively combat all forms of oppression. Cuba offers an example for working people worldwide, including right here in the United States.

Student strike in Puerto Rico wins demands

Continued from front page

nounced, students organized to clean up the campuses they had been occupying and get them ready for classes. “The most important thing that we won is showing that we have the power to change things,” Frederick Cortés, a political science student, told the *Militant* in a phone interview while participating in a volunteer cleanup crew at the Río Piedras campus in San Juan. Cortés was part of the student occupation of the campus.

During the strike “doctors came to campus and gave us free medical checkups. People driving by would stop and give us food. They told us ‘don’t give up, we’re counting on you,’” Cortés said. Union members, especially from the teachers’ union and the electrical workers, also actively backed the strike.

Administration officials tried to divide the students by organizing assemblies they hoped would call off the strike on some campuses, but failed. The government also sent in cops to block the delivery of food and water to students camped out at the university, but backed down after just a few days.

While the strike has succeeded in holding off fee and tuition hikes for now, cuts in the number of classes and increases in class size have not been reversed, Cortés noted.

In November, Gov. Luis Fortuño began laying off 17,000 government workers. He claimed this was needed to close a \$3.2 billion budget gap. Unemployment in Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony, has risen to an official rate of almost 17 percent, aggravated by government layoffs.

The measures have also affected the

public universities, which get 90 percent of their funds from the island’s government. Tuition rose 12 percent in 2007 and 4 percent the following year. The university administration has threatened to raise tuition and fees by anywhere from \$500 to \$1,400 a semester.

“Students from all different political views, from those who support Puerto Rican independence to those who think it should become a U.S. state, all came together to defend the right to a public education,” Mariana Lima, an education major at the Río Piedras campus, said in a phone interview.

“This fight is not over,” she said. “We need to regain our strength and be prepared if they try to raise the costs again. We are ending the strike with our heads held high.”

Washington's 65-year division of Korea

(Part II)

BY SETH GALINSKY

After Washington divided Korea in two, with the acquiescence of the Stalinist regime in Moscow, and imposed a capitalist-landlord regime on South Korea following the end of World War II, it was on an inevitable collision course with Korean workers and peasants. In the North the government had implemented a land reform, laws guaranteeing formal equality for women, and the eight-hour workday.

By mid-1949, after most U.S. and Soviet Union troops had withdrawn from the peninsula, Washington was feverishly building up the Syngman Rhee dictatorship in the South and a 98,000-strong South Korean army that was carrying out provocative actions all along the border with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the North. One indication of the mass resistance to the U.S.-backed regime and the desire for one single Korea is that 100,000 people were killed in the South before the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, many of them during fighting between guerrilla forces and the Rhee government.

On June 25, 1950, troops from the DPRK crossed the 38th parallel, which marked the dividing line between North and South. The South Korean army disintegrated almost overnight. Within three days North Korean soldiers took control of Seoul and were welcomed by mass demonstrations and dancing in the streets. By early August they had pushed the South Korean and remaining U.S. troops out of the entire country except for a small beachhead at the Pusan port at the southeastern tip of the Korean Peninsula.

The victorious forces extended the land reform, earning the support of peasants and the hatred of large landowners and capitalists.

Millions welcomed unification

In their book *Korea: The Unknown War* Jon Halliday and Bruce Cumings note that the U.S. army "that had bested Germany and Japan found its back pressed to the wall by what seemed to be a hastily assembled peasant military."

"Millions of South Koreans welcomed the prospect of unification, even on Communist terms," admitted Alfred Crofts, a former member of the U.S. Army Military Government in Korea. "They had suffered police brutality, intellectual repression and

political purge. Few felt much incentive to fight for profiteers or to die for Syngman Rhee."

U.S. president Harry Truman pushed through a resolution in the United Nations Security Council creating a UN unified command with Gen. Douglas MacArthur as commander in chief to fight to take back control of the peninsula. Sixteen governments sent token forces to fight under the UN flag, although most of the troops and money came from the United States.

By early October U.S.-led forces had succeeded in retaking much of the South. Washington equipped the 5.7 million U.S. troops who fought in the war with the most modern weapon systems and aircraft. The Democratic People's Republic, however, was using World War II-vintage tanks, artillery, and planes left behind by the Soviets, much of them obsolete. While the U.S. military was pouring in hundreds of millions of dollars to reestablish the Rhee regime, Soviet aid to the DPRK was dispensed with an eyedropper.

More modern military equipment, including more advanced tanks that could have helped the DPRK block the U.S. aggression, were never provided. The Stalinist regime in Moscow was not interested in advancing the interests of working people in Korea or elsewhere. Instead it sought to do the minimum possible to maintain influence in the North, to use as leverage in its negotiations with imperialist powers in pursuit of "peaceful coexistence."

Washington's goal in war

It was clear that Washington hoped not just to overturn the workers state in North Korea, but to reestablish imperialist domination of China and send a message to colonial people around the world who were fighting for independence.

At first, the Korean revolutionaries received little material assistance from the Chinese government. It was only when U.S. troops had reached the Chinese border and directly threatened the People's Republic of China that Beijing began to provide significant aid to the Koreans. It sent more than a million volunteer troops that helped their Korean brothers and sisters push the imperialist forces back to 30 miles south of Seoul.

U.S. forces counterattacked and made it back to the 38th parallel, but the Koreans with the aid of the Chinese troops had fought Washington to a stalemate.

In 1953 after three years of fighting, Washington was forced to sign a ceasefire agreement. This was the first big defeat for U.S. imperialism since its emergence at the beginning of the 20th century.

But to this day the U.S. government has refused to sign a peace treaty and remains officially at war with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Bolstered by successfully turning back the U.S. imperialist intervention and to block further aggression, the workers and peasants in China began to overturn capitalist relations there. Peasant committees were reorganized beginning in 1950-51 to deepen the land reform in China. By October 1952



UN Photo

Working people fleeing fighting January 1951 during Korean War. Washington's partition of Korea left thousands of families divided between north and south.

about 80 percent of heavy industry and 40 percent of light industry were nationalized.

In the course of the Korean War, Washington had unleashed a furious assault on the Korean people. By September 1950, the U.S. Air Force had dropped 97,000 tons of bombs and 7.8 million gallons of napalm. More bombs were dropped on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea than were dropped on all of Europe from all sides in World War II.

U.S. scorched-earth policy

Under MacArthur's scorched-earth policy, U.S. planes leveled almost every building in North and central Korea and in much of the South, but they could not crush the resistance of Korean workers and peasants.

Koreans in the North who survived under perilous conditions rebuilt bridges and dams and planted fields at night, and built entire factories underground.

Some 3 million Korean civilians, half a million North Korean soldiers, hundreds of thousands of Chinese volunteers, and 100,000 South Korean and UN soldiers, including 54,000 from the United States, were killed during the U.S.-organized war.

After the armistice took effect, Washington continued to back Rhee and subsequent military-led regimes, which attempted to silence anyone who called for reunification of the country or even the right to travel freely between South and North.

In spite of billions of dollars of economic and military aid that Washington poured into South Korea, Rhee was driven from power by mass mobilizations of workers and students in the South in 1960, although he was replaced by other military-led regimes.

In May 1980 an uprising in Kwangju and several other cities demanding an

end to martial law in the South was violently suppressed by the South Korean army and police. But their fight weakened the military regime and opened up space for those seeking to end the divisions between North and South.

In 1993 Kim Young Sam became the first civilian president of South Korea. Recognizing the mass support for reunification, Kim Dae-jung, elected president in 1998, proposed a "sunshine policy" for improving relations with the North.

In 1999, taking Kim's promises for good coin, 5,000 people demonstrated at Seoul National University to demand reunification. Some 13,000 police surrounded the school and blocked them from traveling 35 miles north to attend a joint North-South rally that would call for ending the division of the country and reuniting thousands of families that had been forcibly divided by the war.

But over the next decade some restrictions with the North were lifted in South Korea.

Current South Korean president Lee Myung-bak has since reversed many of the "sunshine" policies approved by his predecessors and joined in Washington's campaign to increase economic pressure on the DPRK.

Today there are still 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea and some 32,500 U.S. military personnel across the Korea Strait in Japan. The U.S.-dominated UN command formally controlled South Korea's "peacetime" military forces until 1994. A scheduled handover of control of South Korea's "wartime" forces has just been postponed until 2015. While demanding that the DPRK renounce the development of nuclear power, Washington's military forces maintain nuclear weapons throughout the region.

But 65 years of imperialist-imposed division has not succeeded in stamping out the desire of working people North and South for reunification.

Just weeks after President Lee charged that the DPRK was responsible for the March 26 sinking of the South Korean warship *Cheonan*, soccer fans in Seoul were glued to the World Cup game between Portugal and the team from the DPRK.

Many of the fans waved flags emblazoned with a map of a united Korea and the slogan "We are one."

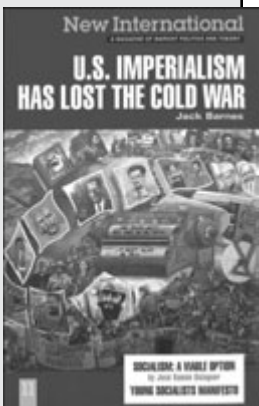


Underground factory in North Korea, Nov. 19, 1950, built to withstand U.S. scorched-earth bombing.

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Socialist Workers Party conducts fo

Sets course of action to reach out to vanguard workers, discuss

BY CINDY JAQUITH

OBERLIN, Ohio—The Socialist Workers Party held its 46th national convention here June 17–19 as the crisis of capitalism continued to drive down the standard of living of millions of workers through unrelenting layoffs, steady lowering of wages, assaults on pensions, health care, and education, and expanding war in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The convention adopted a course of radically reorienting the party to respond to the fact that workers are experiencing deteriorating living and working conditions they have never seen before and a vanguard layer among them is open to a working-class perspective about how to respond.

The gathering here, which was combined with an educational conference, drew 350 people, including party members, organized supporters, and other guests. In addition to the United States, workers and young people came from Australia, Canada, France, Greece, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Leading up to the convention party members in local SWP branches discussed and voted on a platform of four resolutions put forward by the SWP National Committee. At the same time SWP members were taking the initial steps to get jobs in larger factories with substantial numbers of Black workers. It is in those workplaces that they have found the best response to a communist explanation of the ongoing world capitalist crisis and the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

Political strands brought together

The first report to delegates—“The Political Strands Keep Being Brought Together: Laying a Foundation to Build the Communist Movement”—was presented by National Committee member



Militant/Natalie Morrison

Delegates to Socialist Workers Party convention discuss platform to radically reorient party to reach out to vanguard in working class.

Mary-Alice Waters. She had recently returned from the Seventh International Conference of the International Society for the Studies of Chinese Overseas, held in May in Singapore.

It is the SWP’s decades of work to defend the Cuban Revolution, said Waters, which have led the party to new political openings in Asia, Africa, and other parts of the world. Thirty-three copies in English and 14 in Chinese of Pathfinder’s *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* were sold to the Singapore conference participants.

The book, edited by Waters, contains interviews with three generals of Chinese-Cuban ancestry in the Cuban

armed forces. Since its publication four years ago, there have been more than 90 meetings in eight countries on five continents to discuss it, Waters reported.

Here in this country the struggles of Chinese immigrant labor are deeply intertwined with other strands of the U.S. class struggle, she explained, noting the role of freed Black slaves after the Civil War in opposing discriminatory treatment of Chinese workers.

Waters also pointed to the flourishing translation of Pathfinder books into Farsi, the official language of Iran. Over the last decade, more than 60,000 Pathfinder books translated to Farsi have been sold in Iran and to Farsi speakers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries.

Waters’s report, and the one that followed it by SWP national secretary Jack Barnes, took up the challenges before the revolutionary leadership in Cuba today in face of the worldwide economic depression and the lack of revolutionary developments in any other part of the world.

Cuba is caught between falling prices for its sugar and nickel and rising import costs. Last year’s sugarcane harvest was the lowest since 1905. There is a big shortage of labor on farms, in factories, and on the railroads; at the same time there is an excess of workers in the administrative layers of the state. Solving these problems demands proletarian leadership in the factories and fields, Waters explained.

Greetings to Cuban Five

The following greetings were sent from the SWP convention to the Cuban Five, five men imprisoned in U.S. jails on frame-up “conspiracy” charges. At the time of their arrest in 1998, they were in Miami monitoring the activities of right-wing Cuban groups that have carried out armed attacks on Cuba.

June 19, 2010

Dear Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando, and René,

The 350 delegates and guests here in Oberlin, Ohio, who today conclude the Forty-sixth Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party, send you our warmest revolutionary greetings. The convention registered concerted steps the party is taking to respond to a small but growing vanguard of working people who are more and more open to thinking about the character of the crisis capitalism has entered and what is to be done. The fight for your freedom has been an integral part of these deliberations throughout the last three days.

From the prisons in which you have been held hostage by the U.S. government for nearly twelve years, your unbreakable proletarian spirit sets an example for working people and youth worldwide. That courage, dignity, and determination is a daily reminder to the U.S. rulers of why they hate and fear the Cuban Revolution. They recognize in you the millions of workers and farmers

in Cuba who—fifty years after taking power and opening the socialist revolution in the Americas—continue to repel imperialism’s unrelenting demand for surrender.

Today, working people in Cuba, the United States, and elsewhere are living with the very initial consequences of what is on course to become the greatest worldwide catastrophe of capitalism that history has yet seen. Faced with that stark reality, the challenges and stakes in fighting to defend and advance the Cuban Revolution have never been greater.

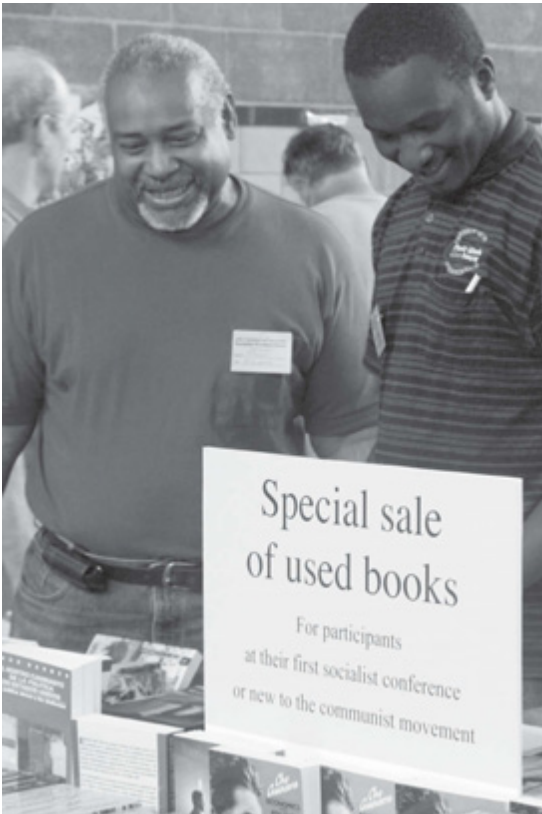
The impact of your resistance, and of the expanding international campaign for your release, was registered last October in the words of the U.S. federal prosecutor who cited the need to try to quiet the international “noise and contentiousness” that surround your unjust imprisonments. The draconian sentences imposed on Antonio, Ramón, and Fernando have been reduced. Every hour that is won steels our resolve to increase the “noise and contentiousness” until the day when each and every one of you is free to continue to fight from outside the walls and bars of the world’s last—and declining—empire.

Comradely,
Jack Barnes
National Secretary

For the delegates and guests, Forty-sixth Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party

Leadership ‘forged in working class’

Cuban president Raúl Castro took up these challenges when he addressed the ninth congress of the Union of Young Communists April 4. “The economic battle is today, more than ever, the principal task,” he told the congress, “because the sustainability and preservation of our social system depends on it.” The future leadership in Cuba must be “forged in the working class,” he said.



Conference participants build their Marxist libraries

Socialist Workers Party National Committee

Elected at 46th Convention

Regular Members

Jack Barnes
Róger Calero
Steve Clark
Frank Forrestal
Ellie García
James Harris
Alyson Kennedy
Paul Mailhot
Omari Musa
Diana Newberry
Paul Pederson
Jacob Perasso
Dave Prince
Mary-Alice Waters
Becca Williamson

Alternate Members

1. Tom Fiske
2. John Studer
3. Laura Garza
4. Maggie Trowe
5. Mary Martin
6. Willie Cotton
7. Tom Baumann
8. Maura DeLuca

Party-sixth constitutional convention faces challenges in building proletarian leadership around world

He pointed to the need to firmly combat corruption.

The challenges in Cuba are similar to those Vladimir Lenin confronted in Soviet Russia toward the end of his life, Waters said, and explain the great interest shown in Pathfinder's book *Lenin's Final Fight* at the Havana book fair in February of this year.

Two documents in the platform before delegates that were written by Barnes addressed these leadership questions. As one of them explained, "The proletarian dictatorship . . . is an instrument whose class character continues to be tested everyday. . . . Its continuation depends on the methods used by the new government, *from the outset*, to consolidate and reinforce the proletarian state property relations established by expropriating the exploiting classes and eliminating the domination of capital. . . . to narrow the sphere of commodity relations, reduce bureaucratic management and the size of administrative layers not involved in production, and combat the tendency to promote competition among workers in separate enterprises."

In a workers state such as Cuba, the resolution continued, "corruption is the most virulent threat to advances in the building of socialism—to maintaining the rights of the working class—and must be combated with that in mind."

Barnes noted the challenge in Cuba

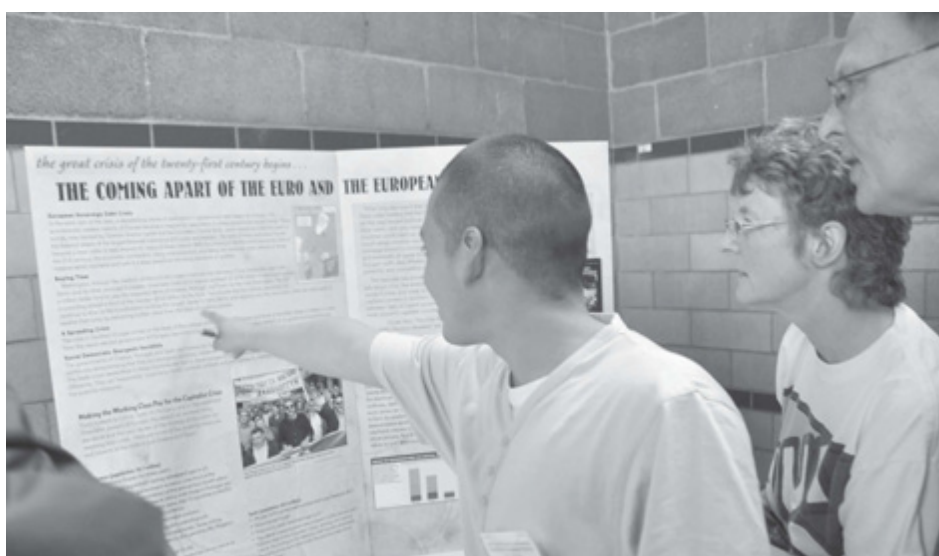
of bringing forward a younger layer of cadres to take on greater responsibility during a period in which there are fewer opportunities for them to engage in the kind of class combat that produces battle-hardened, tested leaders.

Barnes explained in his report the impact on U.S. workers of the grinding capitalist economic crisis. He noted that capitalists in the United Kingdom, where oil giant BP owns many of the insurance policies held by workers, are whipping up a campaign to counter attacks on BP, by telling workers the U.S. government wants to steal their pensions. Washington claims to be outraged by BP's practices. Vanguard workers should expose both capitalist governments and reject their attempt to pit workers in the two countries against each other.

The next downturn in the economy will begin with unemployment not at 4 percent as it was in 2007 when the first recession started, but at 9 percent to 10 percent, said Barnes. Interest rates will be near zero. The government will be unable to spend its way out of this ongoing crisis. In fact, government stimulus plans will have less and less of an impact.

Engels on 'socialists' vs. 'communists'

Barnes said the meritocratic social layer in the White House today governs like the "socialists" described by Fred-



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Studying one of several displays featuring different political topics and work of communist movement. Display above, titled "The Coming Apart of the Euro and the European Union," was part of series of panels under heading "The Great Crisis of the Twenty-first Century Begins."

erick Engels as those "who wanted to eliminate social abuses through their various universal panaceas and all kinds of patchwork, without hurting capital and profit in the least. . . . people who stood outside the labor movement and who looked for support rather to the 'educated classes.'" Engels and Karl Marx, on the other hand, looked to that section of the working class "which demanded a radical reconstruction of society" and "called itself *communist*."

Communists are not for proposing better ways to extract surplus value, said Barnes. They're not fighting to reform

the system, but they will always fight against cuts in what workers have won. Workers need to overturn the current bourgeois government and replace it with one that will expropriate the capitalists and establish proletarian property, state property, so that the working class no longer has to rely on "entitlements," in reality, charity from the wealthy.

Angela Olsson, a fraternal delegate from the Communist League in Sweden, spoke in the discussion on what the "socialist" government has meant for the working class there. The social-

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Socialist Workers launch 2010 election campaigns

Continued from front page

social advance that cuts into their profits. Our campaign will explain the necessity of a revolutionary struggle by workers and farmers to conquer power, expropriate the exploiting capitalist class, and place state property at the disposal of the working-class majority, explained Harris.

From July 10–18 campaign supporters in New York will be collecting 7,000 signatures—double the legal requirement—to place on the ballot Róger Calero, SWP candidate for Congress, 15th C.D.

In Des Moines, Iowa, a petitioning drive is also being organized July 10–18 to collect 2,000 signatures for governor and lieutenant governor. Another 450 signatures will be collected there to place Rebecca Williamson, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D., on the ballot.

In Washington, D.C., supporters will be gathering 6,000 signatures July 24–August 1 to win ballot status for SWP mayoral candidate Omari Musa.

"Fighting to win ballot status for the SWP in a number of states is important to defending the legal rights of working-class parties," Angel Lariscy, who is organizing the petitioning drive in New York, told the rally.

"As we petition we'll speak to thousands of workers and youth. Many will be interested in learning more about the campaign. They will buy *Militant* subscriptions and the new Pathfinder book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*," she said. Lariscy introduced a dozen young people on the stage who will be campaigning for the SWP candidates during the petitioning drives this summer.

Also on the platform of the windup celebration was Julie Bingham, one of the organizers of the Pathfinder Print Project. She explained that over the past year some 260 volunteers made a big contribution to keeping Pathfinder books in print. Over the last 12 months they have produced 171 books—7 new, 60 upgrades, and 104 reprints, she said. The organized supporters auxiliary of the communist movement has also won 464 people to become regular monthly contributors to the party's work, Bing-

ham said, and is shooting for 500.

Basir Ambok, who was born in Malaysia, told the rally about the new openings for getting a hearing for communist literature there and throughout Southeast Asia. "The Pathfinder title *Woman's Evolution* is being translated into Indonesian," he said, "and will provide new opportunities to reach out to working people there."

In response to an appeal by Rebecca Williamson for funds to help build the Socialist Workers Party, rally participants contributed \$25,100.

Concluding the rally, SWP leader Dave Prince reported that 24 contributors made pledges of \$463,700 to the Capital Fund, which finances the movement's long-term publishing projects.



Militant/Carole Lesnick

, taking advantage of special sales at the gathering.

SWP candidates in 2010

*Petitioning to get on the ballot

California

Lea Sherman, Governor
James Harris, U.S. Senate
Gerardo Sánchez, U.S. Congress, 8th C.D.

Georgia

Jacob Perasso, Governor
Lisa Potash, U.S. Senate
Rachele Fruit, Commissioner of Agriculture

Florida

Deborah Liatos, U.S. Senate
Ernest Mailhot, Miami Commissioner Distr. 5

Illinois

John Hawkins, Governor
Alyson Kennedy, U.S. Senate
Laura Anderson, U.S. Congress, 1st C.D.

Iowa

David Rosenfeld, Governor*
Helen Meyers, Lt. Governor*
Maggie Trowe, U.S. Senate
Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.*

Massachusetts

Kevin Dwire, Governor
Laura Garza, U.S. Congress, 8th C.D.

Minnesota

Diana Newberry, Governor
Anthony Lane, U.S. Congress, 5th C.D.

New York

Dan Fein, Governor
Ruth Robinett, U.S. Senate
Willie Cotton, U.S. Senate
Róger Calero, U.S. Congress, 15th C.D.*

Pennsylvania

Brian Nevins, Governor
Osborne Hart, U.S. Senate

Texas

Amanda Ulman, Governor
Steve Warshell, U.S. Congress, 18th C.D.

Washington

John Naubert, U.S. Senate
Mary Martin, U.S. Congress, 7th C.D.

Washington, D.C.

Omari Musa, Mayor*
Glova Scott, Delegate to the U.S. House of Rep.
Paul Pederson, Chairman of the City Council

U.S. troops out of Afghanistan!

Just one year ago, Gen. Stanley McChrystal was hailed by Democrats and Republicans alike as the military commander who will get the job done in Afghanistan. His nomination sailed through Congress. Now, McChrystal's boss Gen. David Petraeus takes over after McChrystal was fired for insubordinate remarks about the president and other key figures in the Barack Obama administration.

Washington is now working overtime to undo the damage from having to dismiss the top commander of the Afghan war for the second time in about a year. Regaining confidence in the war effort among the troops and maintaining the support of the Afghan government and Washington's allies are some of the challenges in front of Obama's new commander. At his confirmation hearing, Petraeus presented no alternative strategy for the war, and reiterated that the military conflict will be an "enduring one." The war, with mounting civilian and

military casualties, has already dragged on for nearly nine years, with no end in sight.

Washington proclaimed itself the savior of Afghanistan when it invaded that country in 2001—the opening shot in its "global war on terror." But it has never tried, because of almost certain failure in the long run, to make its military campaign in Afghanistan a popular war. Unlike any previous major military conflict in U.S. history, Washington has avoided patriotic appeals to "sacrifice" for the war effort.

With the latest military changes at the top of the Afghan war, Washington is trying to put in place a new military command that can make some progress in the war to advance its imperialist interests. The only course that is in the interests of working people in Afghanistan, the United States, and the world over is the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and allied troops from that country.

SWP holds 46th national convention

Continued from page 9

democratic politicians who have run the capitalist state for most of the last half century do no more than "restrain the excesses of the bosses," she said. They treat workers as wards of the state, people to be "taken care of." And they have a long history of spying on the working class, conducting anti-women programs like forced sterilization, and deporting "illegal" immigrants, she added.

Workers control of safety is the main demand communists advance in cases like that of the BP oil spill in the Gulf, said Barnes. Simply nationalizing BP without workers being in power accomplishes nothing. Most major accidents and their catastrophic results could be avoided if workers controlled all aspects of safety on the job.

Putting forward this perspective, defending workers from the rulers' assaults and class solidarity, will be an important aspect of the SWP election campaigns this year, said Barnes.

Following the three days of deliberations, the convention concluded with the election of a new National Committee of the SWP.

Alongside the convention was a series of classes. One on "World Capitalist Crisis, Israel, and the Roots of Jew Hatred" took up the need for a multinational, working-class leadership to fight for a democratic, secular Palestine. Communists would fight for Palestine to be a refuge for all Jews facing persecution. Conference participants discussed how the call for a boycott of Israeli products is not a road toward winning self-determination for the Palestinians, but a dangerous concession to anti-Semitism.

A second class took up the book *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*, which explains how capitalist norms of "beauty" and "fashion" are class questions that cannot be separated from the class struggle. There were also classes on "Korea Is

One! The Fight for Reunification: The Unresolved National Division Imposed by Imperialism Following World War II," "Iran and Its Revolutionary Upheavals Since World War II," and an introductory class presented in English and Spanish about the SWP.

"I didn't know about the civil war in South Korea after World War II or the fact that many South Koreans support Korean reunification," said Zach Liddle, 22, who was attending his first convention.

Keith Blue, 40, an African-American cook in Washington, D.C., said he was in his mid-20s when he first visited the Pathfinder bookstore there, got some books, and attended a Militant Labor Forum. "I was too young to recognize how important classes and the forum were at that time," he added.

Blue said one of the biggest impacts of the convention on him was its "emphasis on history and the discussion here on how the system controls workers, and different protests for more rights."

A literature display, with a special table of discounted books so those new to the communist movement can build up their libraries, sold more than \$2,300.

Numerous displays in the convention hall illustrated themes under discussion, such as the use by party members of the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* in factories, the impact of the capitalist economic crisis on working people, and the forging of a hereditary working class in China.

Other displays highlighted the work of the Print Project, made up of 260 volunteers who keep Pathfinder books in print, the book distribution effort, and the work of supporters to win new monthly contributors to the communist movement.

Brian Williams contributed to this article.

Afghanistan

Continued from front page

sign June 23, less than two days after a *Rolling Stone* article in which McChrystal and his aides revealed their disdain for key figures in the Barack Obama administration and top diplomats assigned to Afghanistan and Pakistan. McChrystal is being replaced by his boss, Gen. David Petraeus, head of U.S. Central Command and a chief architect of the "counterinsurgency" strategy employed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

McChrystal had replaced Gen. David McKiernan in May 2009, making this the second time President Obama has dismissed his top commander of the Afghan war.

Only Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got "good reviews" from the McChrystal team. "Hillary had Stan's back during the strategic review," an adviser is quoted as saying in the article. "She said, 'If Stan wants it, give him what he needs.'"

In McChrystal's review last year, he warned of defeat if the White House did not send sufficient reinforcements over the next year. The report was leaked to the press, increasing pressure on the White House. A few months later Obama announced he would deploy 30,000 more troops, close to McChrystal's recommendation of 40,000. At the same time Obama announced a "deadline" to begin withdrawing troops in July 2011.

The main source of growing discontent among combat troops has been the increasing restrictions on the rules of combat, such as limiting the use of air and artillery strikes and constraints on breaking into Afghan homes.

Stepped-up offensive operations, combined with these restrictions, have resulted in more frequent and longer ground battles. More than 100 U.S. and NATO troops were killed in June, the highest month for coalition deaths since the war began.

While entailing more risk to U.S. soldiers, the attempts to lessen civilian casualties is a pillar of Washington's counterinsurgency strategy. It begins with an overwhelming ground offensive to drive the Taliban from major population centers. Troops are then stationed among the population to prevent the Taliban from regaining influence as they prop up a pro-U.S. power structure and work to convince residents that they are better off working with the new regime than with a weakened Taliban.

At his confirmation hearing June 29, General Petraeus laid out a course to maintain the same basic strategy, while pledging to review the contentious rules of engagement. Petraeus described U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan as an "enduring one." He said that July 2011 will mark the beginning of a "transition phase in which the Afghan government would take more and more responsibility for its own security," and echoed recent comments by Obama that the date is *not* "when we will be rapidly withdrawing our forces and switching off the lights."

A June 29 opinion piece in the *Washington Post* criticized what it called Obama's "misguided" and fallacious deadline, blaming it for pushing Afghan president Hamid Karzai to seek premature deals with the Taliban, weakening support among NATO allies, emboldening the Taliban, reducing incentive for the Pakistani government to break from Taliban and other anti-U.S. Islamist forces, and undercutting efforts to convince Afghans that they will be protected from Taliban retribution.

Against this backdrop, the Pakistani government is seeking to broker a deal between the Afghan government and the various Islamist groups fighting in Afghanistan with which it has influence. Most recently, Islamabad has been pressing to begin reconciliation efforts with Sirajuddin Haqqani, a key target of Washington who commands a major force waging war in Afghanistan.

U.S. strategy is to further weaken and split the Taliban movement, forcing enough elements into negotiations on terms more favorable to Washington's interests.

CIA director Leon Panetta said June 27 that there is no evidence the Taliban or Haqqani network, are interested in a peace deal that Washington would accept, which includes renouncing ties to al-Qaeda. "Unless they're convinced that the United States is going to win and that they're going to be defeated, I think it's very difficult to proceed with a reconciliation that's going to be meaningful," he said.

LETTERS

Korea: 'Our people are united'

I have read with great interest the first article in your series on Korea (June 28 *Militant*). You do a service by reminding the people of the name of Syngman Rhee, the hated dictator. His name and crimes do not seem to be known in America, and also forgotten are the crimes of the U.S. forces of the 1950s.

Our people are united in spirit, and will once again be united in one nation.

Kim Phokhu
By e-mail

Capitalists think differently

According to "60 minutes," the BP oil well disaster was caused by reckless behavior, stupidity,

arrogance, and a lust for bigger and quicker profits. Let's face it: capitalists think differently than we do.

Gary Striker
Montpelier, Vermont

Prisoner requests subscription

I would like to receive the *Militant*. Thanks.
A prisoner
Florida

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

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The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.